

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the present application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

I. Status of Claims

Claims 1-12 are pending

Claims 1, 2, 5, 6, and 9-12 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by or, in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as obvious over Bartelmuss et al.

Claim 1 has been amended herein to more clearly recite the claimed invention and differentiate the claimed invention from the cited reference.

The Examiner indicated that claims 3, 4, 7 and 8 would be allowable if rewritten to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

III. Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §102(b)/35 U.S.C. §103(a)

Claims 1, 2, 5, 6, 9 and 10 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by or, in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as obvious over Bartelmuss et al. The Examiner's rejections are respectfully traversed.

U.S. Patent No. 5,660,689 to Bartelmuss discloses a dewatering blade for a wire section having a blade part 4 attached to an intermediate part 3, the intermediate part 3 being attached to a base 2 such that the angle or height of the intermediate part with respect to the base can be adjusted.

The arrangement disclosed in the cited reference does not eliminate the problem that the present invention seeks to address. That is, that is the cited reference does not address preventing the jamming of loading blade when said loading blade presses against a moving wire. The inventors of the present invention have found that when the loading blade presses against the wire the loading blade is subject to a torque arising from the wire movement. As a result of this torque the loading blade has a tendency to jam. The inventors have discovered that this jamming problem can be solved by using a bearing roller 100 between the loading blade and the base part, the roller serving to prevent the jamming phenomenon.

It is noted that the blade disclosed in U.S. Patent No. 5,660,689 is not a loading blade but a stationary dewatering blade, i.e. it does not move during the formation of the web. Thus, in this type of structure there is no need for arrangements which insure the mobility of the dewatering blade.

In view of the above it is submitted that the cited reference does not anticipate the claimed invention and/or render the claimed invention obvious.

The present amendment is being filed together with a Request for Continued Examination (RCE) to maintain the application pending. The fee of \$740.00 for filing the RCE is enclosed herewith. If it is determined that any other fee is required, the Patent and Trademark Office is specifically authorized to charge such fee to Deposit Account No. 50-0518 in the name of Steinberg & Raskin, P.C.

According to currently recommended Patent Office policy, the Examiner is specifically authorized to contact the undersigned in the event that a telephonic interview would advance the prosecution of this application.

An early and favorable action on the merits is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

STEINBERG & RASKIN, P.C.

By: 

Paul J. Higgins
Reg. No. 44,152

Steinberg & Raskin, P.C.
1140 Avenue of the Americas
New York, New York 10036
(212) 768-3800

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